

File 62

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
INFORMATION REPORT

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This is UNEVALUATED Information

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.  
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.  
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

1. Durres is a primitive little town with a population of less than 10,000. It is a good port, but since the waters are approximately five meters deep, only ships up to 5,000 tons can be berthed.
2. The town has a garrison of approximately 1,000 soldiers and approximately 500 members of the Sigurimi forces. Army personnel wear shabby, ill-fitting khaki uniforms patterned after the Soviet army. The soldiers appear to be poorly trained and awkward. They are armed with Soviet automatic rifles, which the Rumanians call "balalaika".
3. For a small port Durres is quite busy. Soviet, Rumanian and chartered English and Italian ships can be seen. Soviet ships from Odessa bring machinery for the oil industry, motors and chemicals. They return to Odessa with bitumen. Rumanian ships bring wheat and corn, rails for the Durres-Tirana railroad which is under construction and rolling stock manufactured in the "23 August" Factories (formerly the Malaxa Works). They return to Constanta with bitumen. A Rumanian ship sails from Constanta to Durres every 15 days. On each of the 10 trips between June and December 1951, [ ] ship took 550 tons of wheat and 260 tons of rails and returned to Constanta with 700 tons of bitumen. English ships bring cement to Durres and Italian tankers carry oil from Rumania. All the ships are under 5,000 tons capacity. One can see two or three Soviet ships in the port at any time. These ships are modern, with motors--displacing from 2,000 to 2,500 tons.
4. No Soviet military personnel were seen. All construction in Albania is under the supervision and direction of a Czechoslovakian technical commission. There are about 100 Czechoslovak Skoda-type trucks for the transportation of goods to Tirana. The Czech technical commission consists of about 50 persons and seems to rule the country by directing its commerce, military organization, construction and politics.
5. Only Rumanian built rolling stock is used. Passenger trains from Durres to Tirana have five cars. Freight trains have about 40 to 50 cars.

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